

**COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS**  
**IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR**

Claims 1-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (previously presented): A music data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line and processing music data received from the external device via the public communications line, comprising:

a receiver that receives music data containing first time information representing first time from said external device via the public communications line;

a setting device that sets second time as second time information for the music data processing apparatus by subtracting a predetermined value from said first time;

a memory that temporarily stores the music data received by said receiver;

a processor that periodically counts up said second time information and starts processing the music data temporarily stored in said memory when said second time information reaches said first time information;

a checking device that checks a time sequential flow of music data temporarily stored in said memory; and

a remover that removes unnatural data from the flow of music data stored in said memory to prevent production of an unnatural musical tone, wherein

said music data temporarily stored in said memory contains data related to volume of a musical tone, and

said unnatural data is data which rapidly changes volume of a musical tone.

Claims 30-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): A music data processing method performed by a music data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line and processing music data received from the external device via the public communications line, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving music data containing first time information representing first time from said external device via the public communications line;
- (b) setting second time as second time information for the music data processing apparatus by subtracting a predetermined value from said first time;
- (c) temporarily storing the music data received by said receiving step;
- (d) periodically counting up said second time information;
- (e) starting to process the music data temporarily stored in said storing step when said second time information reaches said first time information;
- (f) checking a time sequential flow of data temporarily stored in said memory; and
- (g) removing unnatural data from the flow of music data stored in said memory to prevent production of an unnatural musical tone, wherein  
said music data temporarily stored in said memory contains data related to volume of a musical tone, and  
said unnatural data is data which rapidly changes volume of a musical tone.

Claims 34-36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): A storage medium storing a program, which a computer executes to realize a music data process for a music data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line and processing music data received from the external device via the public communications line, comprising the instructions for:

- (a) receiving music data containing first time information representing first time from said external device via the public communications line;
- (b) setting second time as second time information for the music data processing apparatus by subtracting a predetermined value from said first time;
- (c) temporarily storing the music data received by said receiving step;
- (d) periodically counting up said second time information;
- (e) starting to process the music data temporarily stored in said storing step when said second time information reaches said first time information;
- (f) checking a time sequential flow of music data temporarily stored in said memory; and
- (g) removing unnatural data from the flow of music data stored in said memory to prevent production of an unnatural musical tone, wherein  
said music data temporarily stored in said memory contains data related to volume of a musical tone, and  
said unnatural data is data which rapidly changes volume of a musical tone.

Claims 38-40 (canceled)

Claim 41 (currently amended): A music data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, comprising:

a receiver that receives a series of music data each containing first time information from said external device via the public communications line;

a judging device that judges whether each of said received music data is ~~initial data~~ received first from the external device or not;

a controlling device that rectifies said first time information by a predetermined value and sets the rectified first time information as second time information for the music data processing apparatus when said judging device judges said received music data is ~~initial~~ the first received data and does not set the first time information as the second time information when said judging device judges said received music data is not ~~initial~~ the first received data;

a memory that temporarily stores said received music data;

a processor that counts up the second time information periodically and processes the stored music data in accordance with said counted up second time information and the first time information contained in the music data to be processed.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A music data processing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said first time information contained in the music data received from the external device is absolute time added at the external device.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A music data processing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said receiver further receives a value for rectifying the first time information from the external device, and

said controlling device rectifies said first time information with said received value.

Claim 44 (previously presented): A music data processing apparatus according to claim 41, further comprising a determiner that determines the predetermined value for rectifying the first time information in accordance with capacity of said memory for storing the received music data, and wherein the setting device rectifies said time information with said determined value.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A music data processing method performed by a music data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a series of music data each containing first time information from said external device via the public communications line;
- (b) judging whether each of said received music data is ~~initial data~~ received first from an external device or not;
- (c) rectifying said first time information by a predetermined value and setting the rectified first time information as second time information for the music data processing apparatus when said judging step judges said received music data is ~~initial~~ the first received data and not setting the first time information as the second time information when said judging step judges said received data is not ~~initial~~ the first received data;
- (d) temporarily storing said received music data; and
- (e) counting up the second time information periodically and processing the stored music data in accordance with said counted up second time information and the first time information contained in the music data to be processed.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A storage medium storing a program, which a computer executes to realize a music data process for a music data processing apparatus connecting to an external device via a public communications line, comprising the instructions for:

- (a) receiving a series of music data each containing first time information from said external device via the public communications line;
- (b) judging whether each of said received music data is ~~initial data~~ received first from an external device or not;
- (c) rectifying said first time information by a predetermined value and setting the rectified first time information as second time information for the music data processing apparatus when said judging step judges said received music data is ~~initial~~ the first received data and not setting the first time information as the second time information when said judging step judges said received music data is not ~~initial~~ the first received data;
- (d) temporarily storing said received music data; and
- (e) counting up the second time information periodically and processing the stored music data in accordance with said counted up second time information and the first time information contained in the data to be processed.

Claim 47 (previously presented): A music data processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein:

said receiver further receives recovery data for recovering music data not received due to a communications error, the recovery data containing third time information;

said memory further stores said received recovery data temporarily; and

said processor further processes said stored recovery data when said second time information reaches said third time information.

Claims 48-49 (canceled)

Claim 50 (previously presented): A music data processing method according to claim 33, wherein:

said receiving step further receives recovery data for recovering music data not received due to a communications error, the recovery data containing third time information;

said storing step further stores said received recovery data temporarily; and

said starting step further starts to process said stored recovery data when said second time information reaches said third time information.

Claim 51 (canceled)

Claim 52 (previously presented): A storage medium storing a program according to claim 37, wherein:

said receiving step further receives recovery data for recovering music data not received due to a communications error, the recovery data containing third time information;

said storing step further stores said received recovery data temporarily; and

said starting step further starts to process said stored recovery data when said second time information reaches said third time information.

Claim 53 (canceled)